



Lancaster Chamber

People | **Business** | Community

July 16, 2020

Dear Governor Wolf:

Yesterday's announcement that restaurants and bars were facing new statewide restrictions was a significant blow to any sense of momentum and accomplishment we had been feeling in Lancaster County.

Thanks to an unprecedented local effort involving business, government, education and healthcare systems, the citizens of Lancaster County have been working together to address the threat of the virus and we've been encouraged by the results.

We are managing our numbers, ensuring systems are in place to track progress (and/or concerns), provide personal protective equipment to businesses and their employees to ensure safety in the workplace and offer financial assistance to businesses to keep our economy moving forward. And, throughout the effort, we have maintained active dialogue with our healthcare systems to ensure we were advancing in a responsible manner.

The entire effort has been unprecedented and the Chamber has been honored to play a part in the all-out community-wide approach.

Yet, the one-size-fits-all approach in yesterday's announcement seems to completely ignore the unique effort that has been undertaken in Lancaster County. And, frankly, the unique results.

We've provided over 4,000 businesses across all industries with COVID-19 supply kits containing masks/face shields, wipes, hand sanitizer and thermometers – ensuring over 46,000 employees are supplied with necessary PPE at work; implemented a comprehensive contact tracing and testing program throughout the County; supported nearly 500 businesses with \$11.7 million dollars in grant funds providing working capital and ensuring they can safely reopen with necessary retrofits to their operations; and we've tracked hospitalizations in our community with results from yesterday showing that we have 26 patients with COVID-19 in our hospitals and two of 170 available ventilators in use.

With this letter we ask for your rationale for the state-wide approach and, more specifically, we ask for the metrics you've applied to Lancaster County that has us placed under this state-wide order -an order that seriously threatens the future of our local restaurants and bars.

We know you know that both lives and livelihoods are at stake with your decisions. And we respect the difficult challenges you face. Yet, at a time when people's (and our community's) future is at stake, we need more explanation, more metrics and more thoughtful and collaborative

guidance from you so we can act accordingly and continue to do our part of ensure Lancaster County's future prosperity –for all its citizens.

Shy further explanation from you, we ask that you remove Lancaster County from the statewide order immediately so we can get back to our work of opening up our local economy, safely and in the best interest of our residents.

Sincerely,



Thomas T. Baldrige, C.C.E.
President and CEO
Lancaster Chamber



Michelle Rondinelli
Board of Trustees Chair
Lancaster Chamber



Scott Fiore
Board of Trustees Chair-Elect
Lancaster Chamber

- CC: Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine
Senator Ryan Aument
Senator Scott Martin
Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Bryan Cutler
Representative Mindy Fee
Representative Keith Greiner
Representative Dave Hickernell
Representative Steve Mentzer
Representative Brett Miller
Representative Mike Sturla
Representative Dave Zimmerman
Commissioner Josh Parsons
Commissioner Ray D'Agostino
Commissioner Craig Lehman